GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1585
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2016
Water Management
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of water is the most important aspect seeking attention both at Government as well as public level and if so, the steps taken by the Government essentially to sensitise to the public about the quality of water;

(b) whether the quality of water management in the country has necessarily involved certain regulatory measures as provided in the Water Act, 1974 and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has launched most notable activities for the improvement of water supply throughout the country and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is difficult to assess the impact of programmes such as Ganga Action Plan (GAP) on improvement in water quality and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remove these difficulties?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(Dr. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) The quality of water is central to all of the roles that water plays in our lives. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR,RD&GR) has taken various steps like organizing training programmes, workshops, painting competitions, printing pamphlets and brochures to sensitize public on ground water quality. 5% funds under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) are earmarked by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation for support activities which include funds for awareness generation and capacity building at various levels.
(b) Yes, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has taken following actions for monitoring to prevent and control water pollution :
â€¢ Effluent standards for water polluting industries have been notified considering the recipient environment.
â€¢ State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB) have been directed under Section 18(1)b of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to direct concerned agencies in the state/UT to develop infrastructure for sewage treatment and to formulate action plan for restoration of identified polluted river stretches.
â€¢ Urban centers discharging wastewater in aquatic resources and having no treatment or inadequate facilities have been identified and concerned municipal corporations have been given directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act,1986 for treatment and utilization of sewage for restoration of water quality of rivers.
â€¢ With respect to industrial effluents, consent management for compliance of standards is being enforced by SPCBs/Pollution Control Committees (PCC) to improve the water quality of the rivers.
(c) Several measures have been taken by the Central Government for the purpose of ensuring water supply in the country by advocating conservation, promotion and protection of water, rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall and other management measures such as:-
â€¢ Full coverage of 13,06,580 habitations; and partial coverage of 3,36,871 habitations with potable source of drinking water, under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme, by the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation.
â€¢ Formulation of the National Water Policy (2012)
â€¢ Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model bill.30 States/UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.
â€¢ Launching of PradhanMantriKrishiSinchayeeYojana (PMKSY)during 2015-16.
â€¢ Launching ofJalKrantiAbhiyan (2015-16 to 2017-18).
â€¢ Undertaking a scheme on Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies (since 2008).
â€¢ Preparation of a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during 2013, to assist the States in Groundwater recharge.
â€¢ Convergence with MGNREGA for recharge of over-exploited blocks.
â€¢ Taking up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme during XII Plan by CGWB, to facilitate community management of aquifers.
â€¢ Launching 'Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation' (AMRUT) in 2015.
(d) & (e) CPCB is monitoring water quality of River Ganga at 57 locations from Gangotri to Diamond Harbour. 113 Real-time Water Quality Monitoring Stations (RTWQMS) are proposed to be installed along the main stem of river Ganga to assess the impact of programs such as Ganga Action Plan on improvement of water quality by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).

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